Little Forest

リトル・フォレスト

32nd dish

Onions

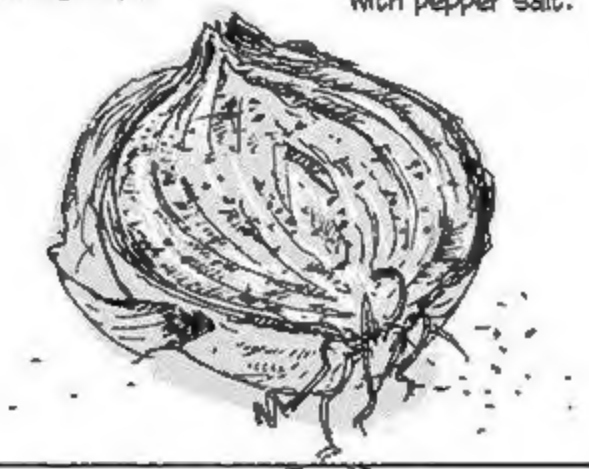
since she planted all the seedlings already.

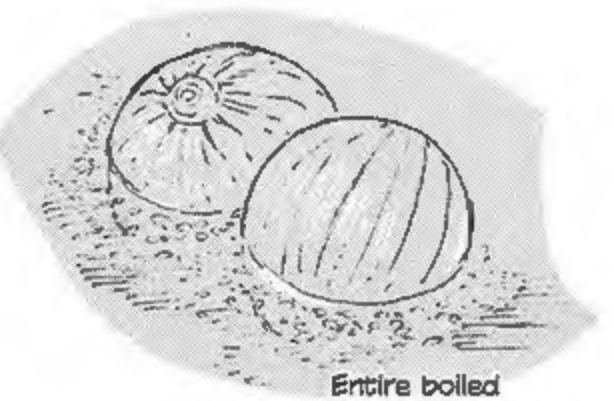
Isn't this a bit much for just one person?

Ichiko asked me to take care of the onions,

I love using the onions in all sorts of exciting ways.

or cut in half, dribbled with oil, baked in the oven, and seasoned with pepper salt.





Entire boiled onions in soup or curry,

But actually, I've reconsidered my take on it.

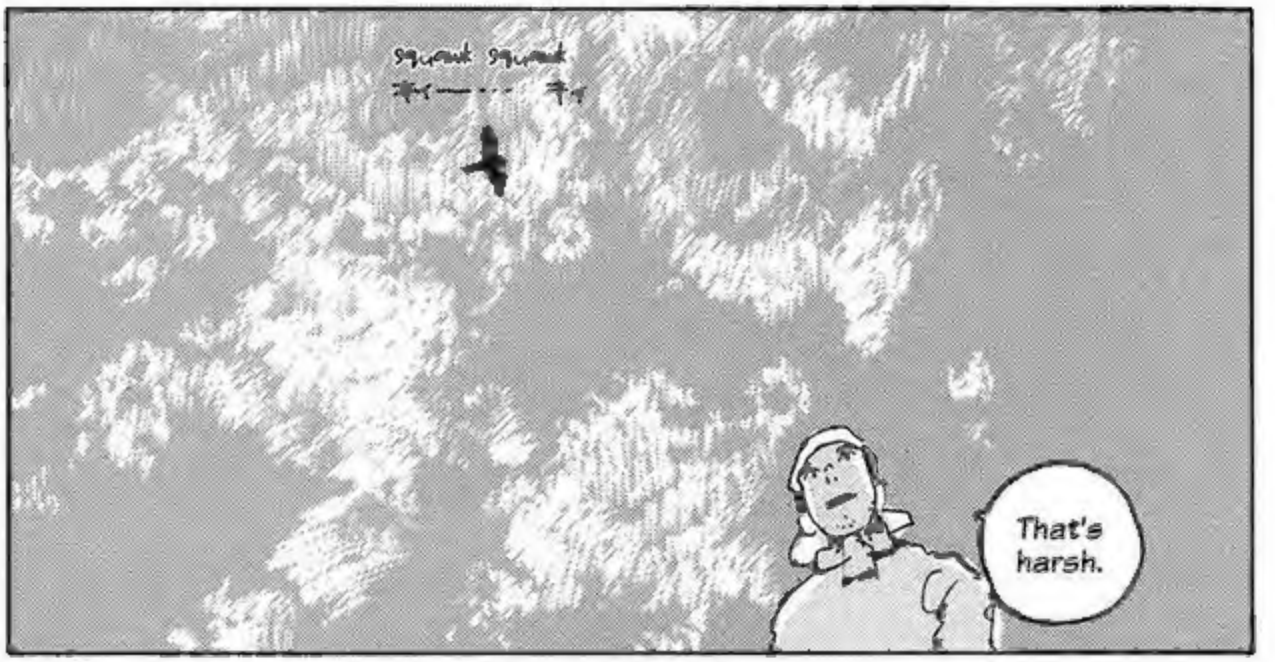
Ichiko-chan has this side to her where she drags her feet a bit.

Yeah.

Once she decided on it, she sure left quickly.

Back then, Ichiko-chan didn't have anywhere else to run to, right?
She only came back here 'cause she had no choice.
She said it didn't sit right with her to just continue staying in Komori like that.
...Did she say something?
I guess.
She said that shouldn't be the case, and wanted to properly choose a place to live in with the feeling that she was facing things.
If she doesn't reach a point where she is able to establish a place she feels like she rightly belongs in, even if it's in the city,
and on top of that, still avoids the choice, she feels like it's disrespectful to Komori.

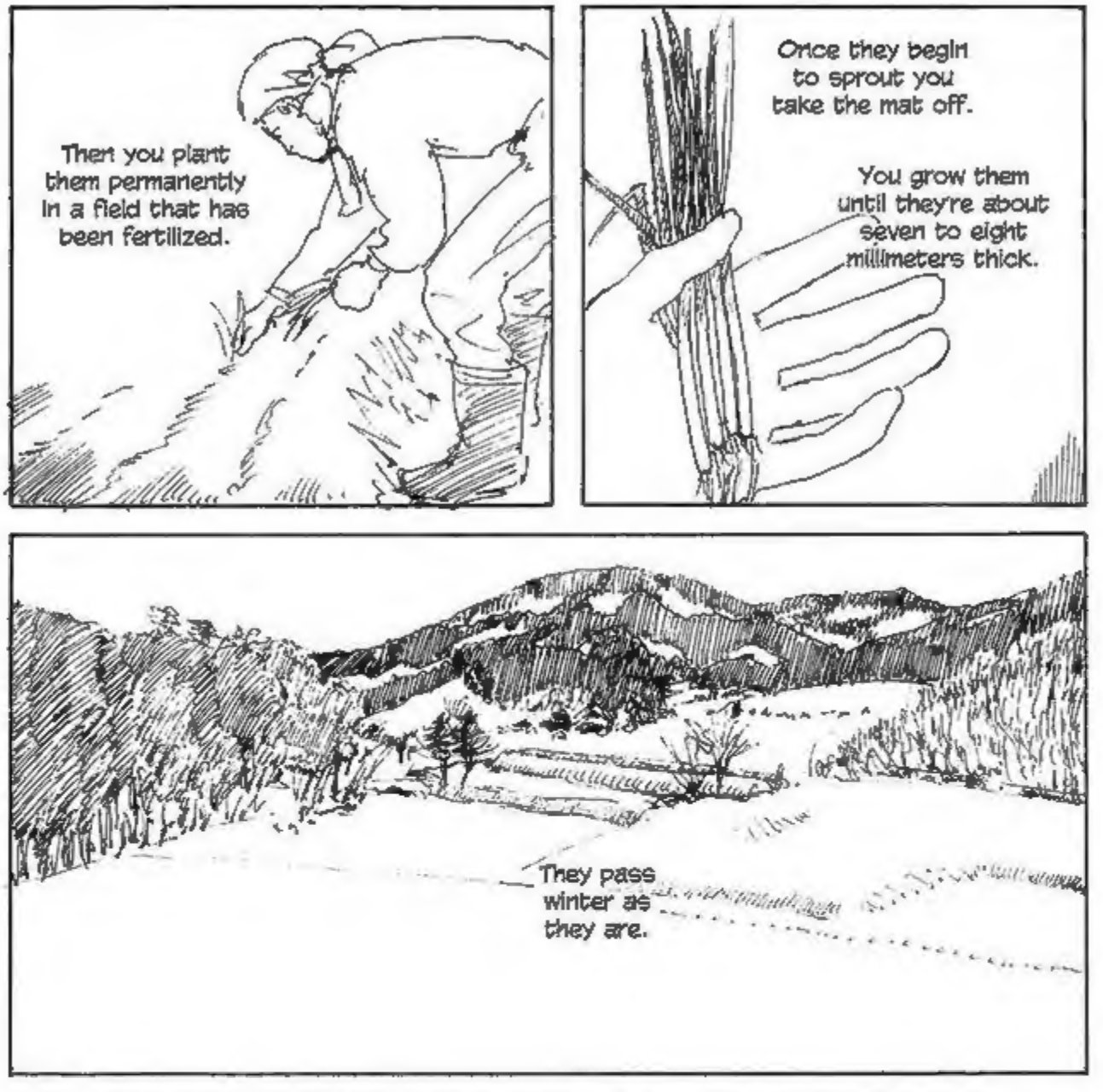
Well, she said something similar to me, too...
...Hmm.
She really overthinks things and isn't very flexible, is she?
but she cares a lot about appearances and hates losing.
She's acting like some unhappy princess.
I think it's fine if she takes a detour...
If she likes it here then she ought to just live here.

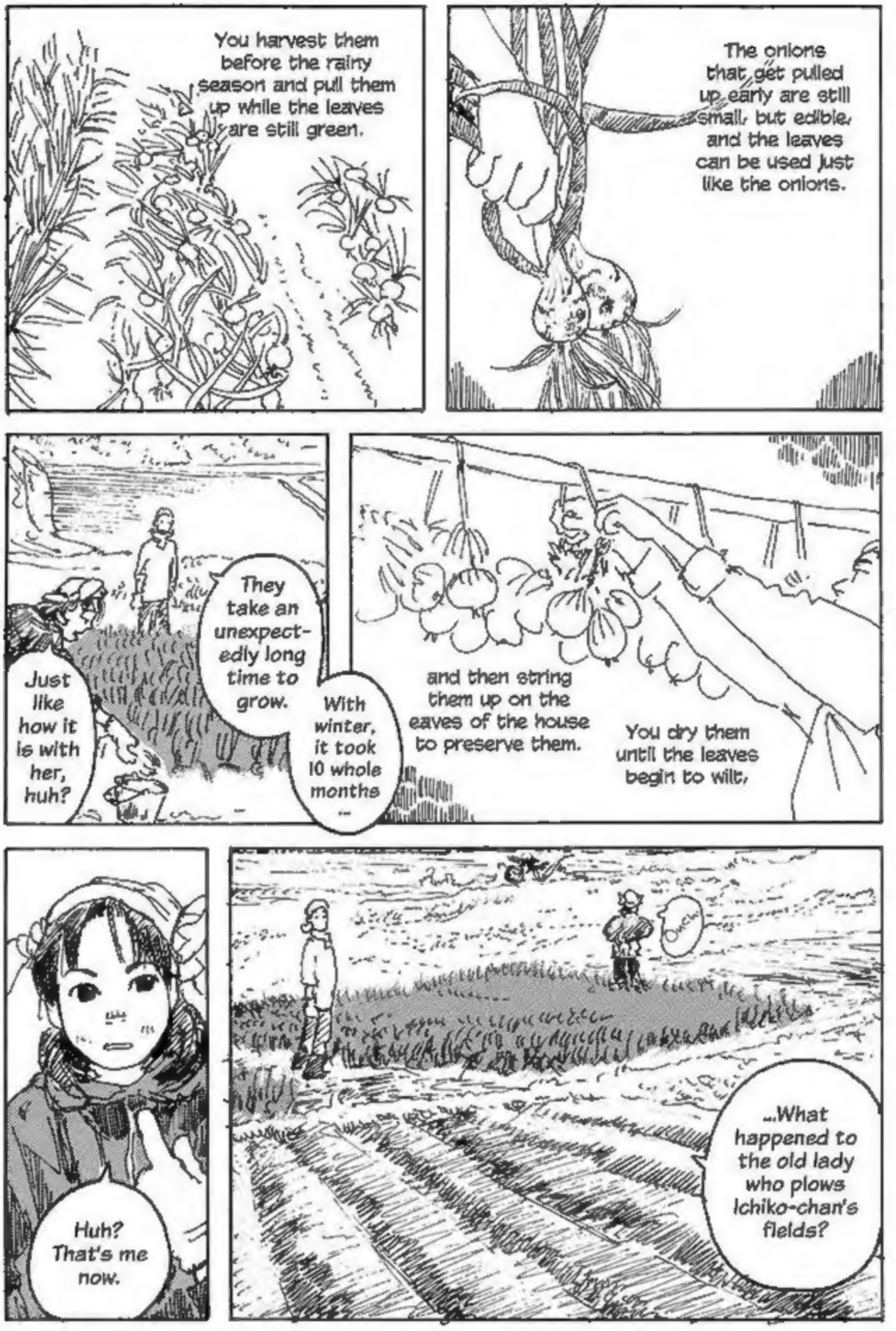

squawk squawk
That's harsh.

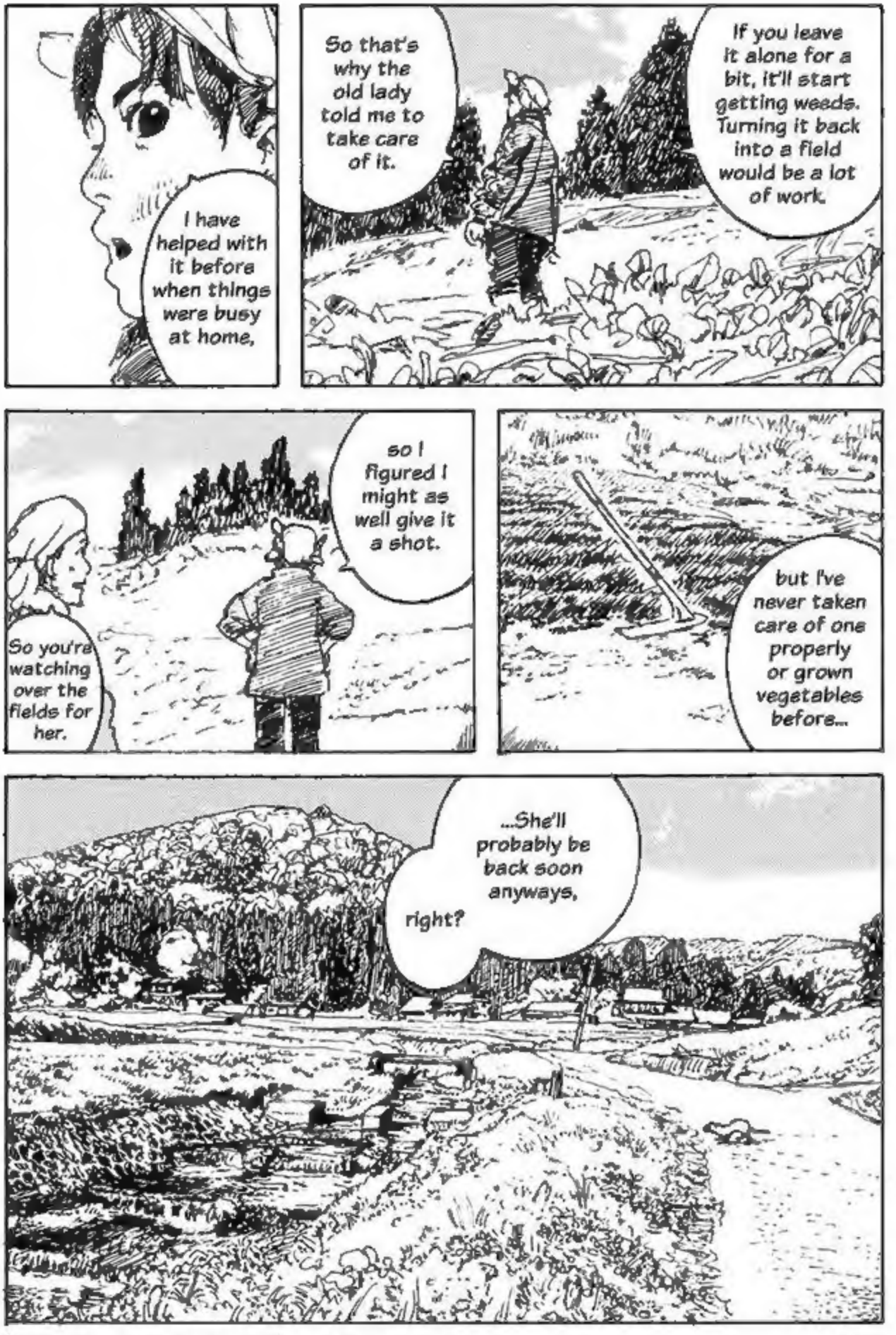
...

To protect it from the rain and from drying out,
it is covered with a woven mat for about five days.

Growing onions begins with cultivating the seedlings.
At the start of autumn, when seeds are sown, the soil must be packed well.
squish squish


Then you plant them permanently in a field that has been fertilized.
Once they begin to sprout you take the mat off.
You grow them until they're about seven to eight millimeters thick.
They pass winter as they are.
The plants that have grown onion heads end up with tough onions that don't taste very good.
Really?
but you pull those ones up as early as possible.
Once the snow is gone and it begins to get warm, the seedlings that can sprout onion heads will come out.


You harvest them before the rainy season and pull them up while the leaves are still green.
The onions that get pulled up early are still small, but edible, and the leaves can be used just like the onions.
Just like how it is with her, huh?
They take an unexpectedly long time to grow.
With winter, it took 10 whole months...
and then string them up on the eaves of the house to preserve them.
You dry them until the leaves begin to wilt.
Huh? That's me now.
...What happened to the old lady who plows Ichiko-chan's fields?


I have helped with it before when things were busy at home,
So that's why the old lady told me to take care of it.
If you leave it alone for a bit, it'll start getting weeds. Turning it back into a field would be a lot of work.
So you're watching over the fields for her.
so I figured I might as well give it a shot.
but I've never taken care of one properly or grown vegetables before...
...She'll probably be back soon anyways, right?

A chive bud

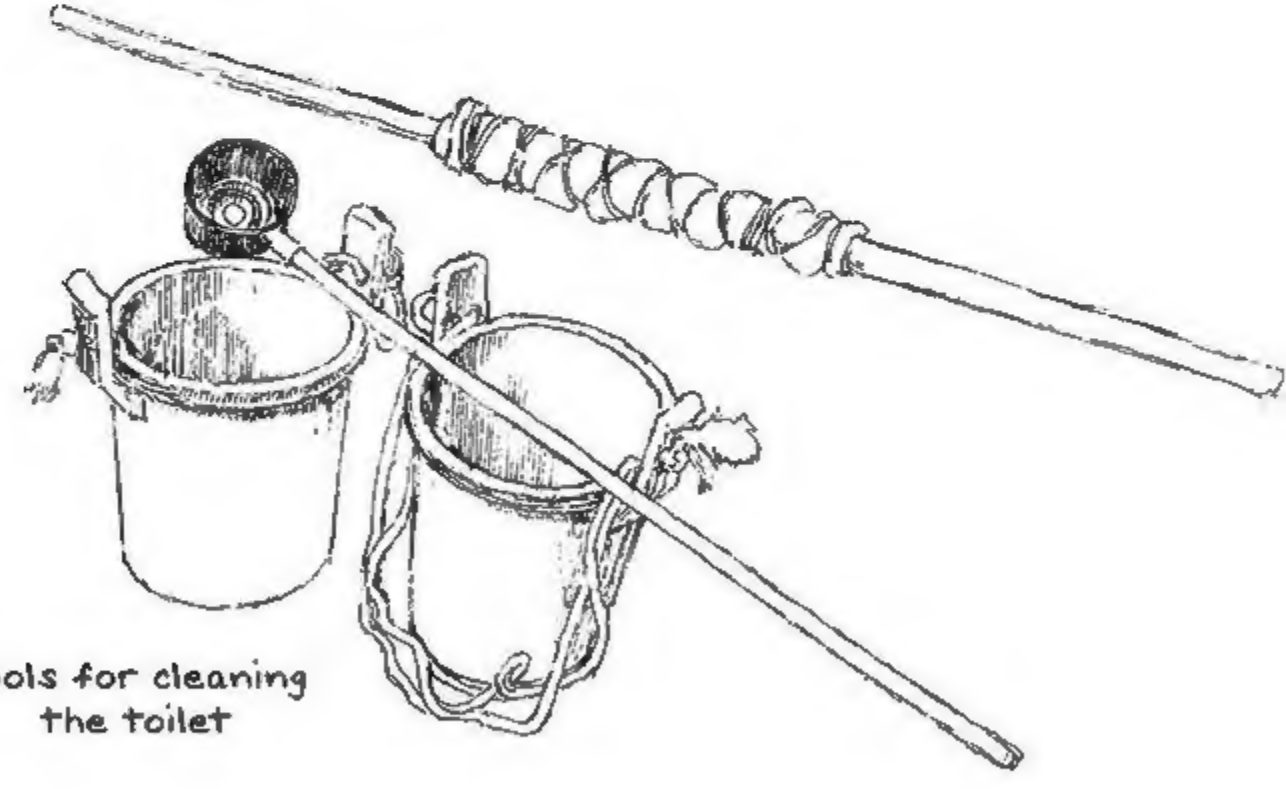
At first, the onions that I grew from seedlings only grew to balls the size of the tip of my thumb. It was really terrible. It seems that if the seedlings aren't at a certain state before before winter comes, they'll never be able to grow large.

Drawing water to the paddies

My toilet isn't one that uses running water and I take care of scooping it out by myself. I live alone and with a tank the size I have, I only need to do it twice a year.

I dig up a field that I'm not using and bury it there. Pure manure which won't become compost is not good for vegetables, so I don't use it directly as fertilizer. I use the fields that I bury it under the following year.

In the past I have drawn out manure that has completely dried from a house that had been left alone for several years. There was absolutely no smell at all and it made for quite amazing fertilizer.



Tools for cleaning the toilet

HotCakes & Illuminati-Manga Present

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Igarashi Daisuke

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Credits:

Translator: laika

Editor: NightSwan

QCers: Blueberry, sotirod, laika, robes, NightSwan

Scanner: GGpX

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